AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13   (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended)   A floating structure for a loading buoy or wellhead platform, comprising a surface element with a substantially rounded cross section in a substantially horizontal plane, columns connecting the surface element to a submerged pontoon element which in a substantially horizontal plane has a substantially rounded external perimeter and a draught in the body of water, mooring devices for securing the ~~floating~~ structure to the seabed and at least one attachment point for transfer pipelines to a second unit, the surface element ~~is~~ being arranged floating in the water plane surface, with a draught in the body of water, and ~~that~~ wherein the proportion of the volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is in the range 4-12 [m^3/m^2], and that the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.3-0.5 and ~~that~~ wherein the mooring devices have a vertical mooring rigidity ~~for the loading buoy~~ in the range 20-75% of the waterline rigidity for the structure.

15. (Currently Amended)   A floating structure according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 14, wherein ~~it~~ the floating structure is a loading buoy comprising attachment point for transfer pipelines from a production/processing/storage unit to the loading buoy and mooring and transfer devices for transferring fluid from the loading buoy to a loading/unloading vessel and the proportion of the volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is in the range 4-7 [m^3/m^2], and the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.31-0.43 and where the mooring devices have a vertical mooring rigidity ~~for the loading buoy~~ which is over 50% of the water plane rigidity for the structure.

16. (Currently Amended)   A floating structure according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 14, wherein ~~it~~ the floating structure is a loading buoy comprising attachment point for transfer pipelines from a production/processing/storage unit to the loading buoy and mooring and transfer devices for transferring fluid from the loading buoy to a loading/unloading vessel and the proportion of the

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volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is approximately 6 [m^3/m^2], and the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.31-0.43 and where the <u>mooring devices have a</u> vertical mooring rigidity <s>for the loading buoy</s> <u>which</u> is over 50% of the water plane rigidity for the structure.

17. (Previously Presented)   A floating structure according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the transfer pipeline from the loading buoy to the production/processing/storage unit and the loading/unloading unit extends as catenaries from the loading buoy.

18. (Previously Presented)   A floating structure according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the transfer pipeline from the loading buoy to the production/processing/storage unit or the loading/unloading unit extends as catenaries from the loading buoy.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented)   A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the surface unit comprises a rotatable deck element for varying orientation of mooring and transfer devices for transfer of fluid.

21. (Currently Amended)   A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein <s>it</s> <u>the floating structure</u> is in the form of a wellhead platform comprising attachment and wellhead arrangements for at least one rigid substantially vertical riser extending from a well and at least one attachment point for a transfer pipeline from the wellhead platform to a second unit, where the proportion of the volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is in the range 6-12 [m^3/m^2], and the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.4-0.5 and where the <u>mooring devices have a</u> vertical mooring rigidity <s>for the loading buoy</s> <u>which</u> is in the range <u>of</u> 20-50% of the water plane rigidity for the structure.

22. (Currently Amended)   A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein ~~it~~ the floating structure is in the form of a wellhead platform comprising attachment and wellhead arrangements for at least one rigid substantially vertical riser extending from a well and at least one attachment point for a transfer pipeline from the wellhead platform to a second unit, where the proportion of the volume of the pontoon element divided by the waterline area of the surface element is in the range 10-12 $[m^3/m^2]$, and the draught of the surface element divided by the draught of the pontoon element is in the range 0.4-0.5 and where the mooring devices have a vertical mooring rigidity ~~for the loading buoy~~ which is in the range of 20-50% of the water plane rigidity for the structure.

23. (Currently Amended)   A floating structure according to claim 21 or 22, wherein ~~it~~ the floating structure comprises processing equipment.

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented)   A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the columns at least partly form buoyancy elements.

27. (Previously Presented)   A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the surface element has a substantially cylindrical shape or alternatively an annular shape with a centre axis substantially vertically oriented.

28. (Previously Presented)   A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the pontoon element is composed of an octagonal annular pontoon with an outer average diameter.

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29. (Previously Presented)   A floating structure according to claim 14, 15, 16 or 27, wherein the pontoon element is composed of an octagonal annular pontoon with an outer average diameter and the proportion between a diameter of the surface element divided by the average diameter of the annular pontoon is in the range 0.7.

30. (Currently Amended)   A floating structure according to claim 14, wherein the ~~surface element has a~~ proportion ~~between draught divided by~~ of the surface element's draft to total height ~~is~~ approximately equal to 0.75.